a controller for activating the impeller head according to a predetermined code;

a switch electrically connected to a power source and the controller and for providing power to the controller when the switch is in a closed position.

13. The device according to claim **12**, wherein the device is configured to be hand-held.

14. The device according to claim **13**, wherein the device is activated on its being pressed against an impact transmissive body.

15. The device according to claim **12**, wherein the device is activated by an integrally formed user interface.

16. The device according to claim **12**, wherein the device is activated by a remote control user interface.

17. A data receiving device comprising:

an impact sensitive transducer for receiving a data-encoding series of impulses from an impact transmissive body through which said impulses are transmitted and responsive to an average impact baud rate of greater than 20 impulses per second.

18. A data transmitting/receiving device for use in a system associated in operation with an impact transmissive body through which the data is transmitted as an encoded series of discrete mechanical impulses, said device comprising:

a reciprocable impact impeller head adapted to transmit a data-encoding series of discrete mechanical impacts to a surface of the impact transmissive body and an impact sensitive transducer adapted to receive a data-encoding series of impulses from a surface of the impact transmissive body.

19. The device according to claim **18** wherein said impact impeller head indirectly impacts against an impact transmissive body.

20. A data transmission system suitable for use with an impact transmissive body and comprising:

an electronically-controlled data transmitting device having a reciprocal impact impeller head for applying discrete mechanical impacts to a first surface of an impact transmissive body to transmit to said body an encoded series of impulse mechanical impacts which are encoded as time intervals between successive impacts in said series; and

a data receiving device having an impact sensitive transducer at a second surface of the impact transmissive body opposite to its first surface for picking up vibrations resultant of said series of impacts for subsequent decoding of said data.

21. A system for data transmission through an impact transmissive body, said system comprising:

(a) a data transmitting device having a reciprocal impact impeller head for transmitting an encoded series of discrete mechanical impacts to the impact transmissive body; and

(b) a data receiving device having an impact sensitive transducer at a second surface of the impact transmissive body for picking up vibrations resultant of said series of impacts.

22. The system according to claim **21**, wherein the series of impacts is encoded as a function of the time intervals between consecutive impacts.

23. A system according to claim **22**, wherein

the system is an access system, and

said data transmitting device is adapted to transmit to the impact transmissive body a coded access controlling code encoded in a specific series of impacts and said data receiving device forms part of an access control module, permitting access upon receipt of said specific series of impacts.

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